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APPLICATION NO).	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.	
10/694,745		10/29/2003	Yoshihide Kuroki	074913.0107	5424	
24735	7590	04/06/2004		EXAMINER		
BAKER	BOTTS I	LLP	ZARROLI, MICHAEL C			
C/O INTE	LLECTU.	AL PROPERTY DEP	ARTMENT			
THE WAR	RNER, SU	ITE 1300		ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER	
1299 PEN	NSYĽVA	NIA AVE, NW		2839		
WASHIN	GTON, D	C 20004-2400		DATE MAILED: 04/06/2004		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/694,745	KUROKI ET AL.	
Office Action Summary	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Michael C. Zarroli	2839	
The MAILING DATE of this communication ap Period for Reply	pears on the cover sheet with the c	orrespondence address	
A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPL THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION. - Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1. after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication. - If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a rep If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statut Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailin earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).	136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be tin bly within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) day will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the, cause the application to become ABANDONE	nely filed rs will be considered timely. the mailing date of this communication (35 U.S.C. § 133).	ation.
Status			
1)⊠ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 f	November 2003.		
,	s action is non-final.		
3) Since this application is in condition for allows closed in accordance with the practice under	•		s is
Disposition of Claims			
4) Claim(s) 1-11 is/are pending in the application 4a) Of the above claim(s) is/are withdra 5) Claim(s) is/are allowed. 6) Claim(s) 1-11 is/are rejected. 7) Claim(s) is/are objected to. 8) Claim(s) are subject to restriction and/a	awn from consideration.		
Application Papers			
9)⊠ The specification is objected to by the Examin 10)⊠ The drawing(s) filed on <u>06 November 2003</u> is/ Applicant may not request that any objection to the Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correct to by the E	are: a) \square accepted or b) \boxtimes object e drawing(s) be held in abeyance. Section is required if the drawing(s) is ob	e 37 CFR 1.85(a). jected to. See 37 CFR 1.12	
Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119			
12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign a) All b) Some * c) None of: 1. Certified copies of the priority document 2. Certified copies of the priority document 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority document application from the International Bureat* See the attached detailed Office action for a list	nts have been received. Its have been received in Applicationity documents have been received in Application (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).	ion No ed in this National Stage	,
Attachment(s) 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) Interview Summary		
 Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08 Paper No(s)/Mail Date 	Paper No(s)/Mail Di 5) Notice of Informal F 6) Other:	ate Patent Application (PTO-152)	

Art Unit: 2839

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

- 1. The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.
- 2. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: In the Brief Description of the Drawings section the examiner takes issue with the description of figure 5D. The component described does not look like a connector (79). This component looks like some kind of shell or hood for a connector.

Appropriate correction is required.

Drawings

- 3. The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they do not include the following reference sign(s) mentioned in the description: 83 hood. A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.
- 4. The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the hood **covering** the connector body and shell must be shown or the feature(s) canceled

Art Unit: 2839

from the claim(s). No new matter should be entered. Only a small portion of the shell is covered.

A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Objections

5. Regarding claim 6 it has been held that a recitation with respect to the manner in which a claimed apparatus is intended to be employed does not differentiate the claimed apparatus from a prior art apparatus satisfying the claimed structural limitations. Ex parte Masham, 2 USPQ2d 1647 (1987). Therefore, no patentable weight has been given to this claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

- 6. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

 The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter, which the applicant regards as his invention.
- 7. Claims 1-11 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Art Unit: 2839

Regarding claim 1;

• The phrase "being a contact pitch direction of the connector" is not understood. The examiner will interpret this to mean that the contacts are at a certain pitch and arrayed in a direction different than the fitting direction.

- The phrase "in an axial direction of the contact" is not understood.

 The examiner will interpret this to mean that the terminal portion projects from the insulator in the same direction as the rest of the contact, no bending.
- In the last two lines, the phrase "connecting portion being formed obliquely in said contact pitch direction" is not understood. The connecting portion of the terminal portion is oblique but from what? Fortunately, figure 4A is helpful in understanding what the applicant is trying to claim. The examiner will interpret this claim to mean what is shown in figure 4A.

Regarding claim 7, what is a "in said contact **pitch** direction?" The examiner will interpret this phrase to mean --formed obliquely **from** said contact pitch direction--.

Art Unit: 2839

Regarding claims 2 and 8, the examiner feels the phrase "formed zigzag" isn't accurate and should be changed. Looking at figures 4C and 4D, they don't look like a zigzag formation. Maybe something like alternating, staggered and/or upper and lower should be used.

Regarding claims 4-5 and, 10-11, the examiner cannot envision all the directions recited. How is the thickness different than the width? Are the three directions to correspond to the three parts of the contact namely, the contact portion, retention portion and, terminal portion? The second direction as recited in claim 7 is the arrayed direction, so how can this direction be the same as the contact width? The examiner can only interpret these claims to mean what is shown in the figures 4C and 4D.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

8. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, in public use, or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

9. Claims 7-8 (as best understood) rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by O'Sullivan (US 6217374).

O'Sullivan discloses an electrical connector member comprising a plurality of contacts (24) arrayed in a contact pitch direction being a second direction crossing a first direction being a fitting direction (fig. 1), and an insulator (60) fixedly retaining said contacts, each of said contacts comprising a contact portion (24A, B, C) to be connected to the counterpart connector, a retention portion (unnumbered fig. 7) retained by said insulator, and a terminal portion (36A, B, C) to be connected with a cable or a lead wire (70, 71), said terminal portion comprising a connecting portion to which said cable or lead wire is soldered (fig. 13), and is projected from said insulator in an axial direction of the contact (fig. 6), said connecting portion being formed obliquely in said contact pitch direction (between figures 2 & 3).

Regarding claim 8 O'Sullivan discloses that the connecting portions are formed zigzag (fig. 3).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

10. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary.

Art Unit: 2839

Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

- 11. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:
 - (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.
- 12. Claims 1-3 (as best understood) rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ozai in view of Wu and further in view of admitted art.

 Ozai a plug connector (1) comprising a plug connector body to be fitted to a counterpart connector in a first direction (fig. 1 right to left), a shell (2) covering at least one surface of said plug connector body, and a hood (unnumbered fig. 1) covering said plug connector body along with said shell while exposing one end side thereof in said first direction, said plug connector body comprising a plurality of contacts (4) arrayed in a second direction (fig. 3) and crossing said first direction, and an insulator (3) fixedly retaining said contacts (fig. 2), each of said contacts comprising a contact portion (fig. 1 at 4) to be connected to the

Application/Control Number: 10/694,745

Art Unit: 2839

counterpart connector, a retention portion retained by said insulator (fig. 2 at and inside 3), and a terminal portion (fig. 4 bottom half) to be connected with a cable or a lead wire (7); said terminal portion comprising a connecting portion to which said cable or lead wire is connected (fig. 2), and is projected from said insulator in an axial direction of the contact.

Ozai does not disclose that said connecting portion is formed obliquely in said contact pitch direction.

Wu discloses a connecting portion formed obliquely in a contact pitch direction (fig. 7).

At the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to obliquely arrange the contacts of Ozai as taught by Wu. The motivation/suggestion for doing so would have been to allow for greater contact density (Wu col. 1 lines 42-44).

Neither Ozai nor Wu disclose that the connecting portion is soldered to the wire.

The applicant has specifically indicated on page 1 (about line 11) of the specification that soldering a connecting portion to a wire is known.

At the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to use soldering to affix the Ozai/Wu connecting portion with the wire as is well known in the art. The motivation/suggestion for doing so

Application/Control Number: 10/694,745

Art Unit: 2839

would have been to use a tried and true method to make the connecting thereby reducing manufacturing costs.

Regarding claim 2 Wu discloses that said connecting portions are formed zigzag in said contact pitch direction (fig.).

Regarding claim 3 Wu discloses that said connecting portions are oriented in the same direction inclined at substantially 45 degrees relative to said contact pitch direction (figures 4 & 7).

13. Claim 9 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over O'Sullivan as applied to claim 7 above, and further in view of Lai.

O'Sullivan discloses that the connecting portions are oriented in a 45 degree angle relative to a second direction.

Lai discloses connecting portions (25) oriented in a 45-degree angle (figures 3& 4). At the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to slant the connecting portions of O'Sullivan at a 45 degree angle as taught by Lai. The motivation/suggestion for doing so would have been to save lateral housing space (Lai col. 1 lines 52-55).

Art Unit: 2839

Allowable Subject Matter

14. Claims 4-5 and 10-11 **might** be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, set forth in this Office action and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

15. The examiner is only dimly sure what the applicant is trying to claim in these claims. Consequently, no reasons for allowable matter can be given surrounding these claims.

Conclusion

- 16. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The references listed on the PTO-892 teach plug connectors with contacts having a contact portion, retention portion, terminal portion and connecting portion.
- 17. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael C. Zarroli whose telephone number is 571-272-2101. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30 to 3:30 M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lynne Feild can be reached on (571) 272-2800 ext 39. The

Art Unit: 2839

fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Michael C. Zarroli Primary Examiner Art Unit 2839

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